

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 MCE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 OMB-01 IO-13
/109 W

-----072672 110212Z /14

R 101725Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
SECSTATE WASHDC 1570
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6578

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: GR, TU, IT, US
SUBJ: CARAMANLIS VISIT TO ROME

SUMMARY. DURING A BRIEF WORKING VISIT TO ROME, GREEK
PREMIER CONSTANTINE CARAMANLIS MADE AN APPEAL BOTH FOR AN
ACCELERATION OF THE PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO GREEK
ACCEPTANCE AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND
FOR PROGRESS IN RESOLVING OUTSTANDING GREEK-TURKISH PROBLEMS.
CARAMANLIS MENTIONED IN A RESTRAINED MANNER THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO SUPPORT A LIFTING OF THE
ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY, POINTING OUT THAT THE GREEKS
DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE RATIONALE FOR THE MOVE. TO ITALIAN
OBSERVERS, CARAMANLIS SEEMED LESS SURE OF HIMSELF ON THIS
OCCASION AND WORRIED ABOUT CHALLENGES FROM HIS POLITICAL
OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

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1. GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS PAID A BRIEF ONE-DAY
WORKING VISIT TO ROME ARRIVING APRIL 5 AND DEPARTING
APRIL 6. DURING THE MORNING OF APRIL 6, CARAMANLIS
MET PRIVATELY FOR TWENTY MINUTES WITH PRIME MINISTER
ANDREOTTI BEFORE THE TWO LEADERS JOINED THEIR ASSEMBLED
DELEGATIONS FOR ENLARGED DISCUSSIONS. A BRIEF COURTESY CALL ON

PRESIDENT GIOVANNI LEONE AND A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI CONCLUDED THE PROGRAM FOR CARAMANLIS VISIT. ACCORDING TO CHIEF OF MFA'S BALKAN AFFAIRS OFFICE (FRANCHETTI) WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE FORMAL MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO DELGATIONS, CARAMANLIS USED MOST OF THE AVAILABLE TIME TO DELIVER A MONOLOGUE ADDRESSED TO THREE PROBLEMS: GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (EC), THE FUTURE OF A UNIFIED EUROPE, AND OUTSTANDING GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTES.

2. ON GREEK EC MEMBERSHIP, CARAMANLIS MADE AN APPEAL FOR ITALIAN SUPPORT TO ACCELERATE THE PROCESS BY WHICH IT WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS CONNECTED WITH GREEK ADHERENCE TO THE EC BE REVISED TO INCLUDE EARLIER DEADLINES, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

3. TURNING TO THE SUBJECT OF THE FUTURE OF A UNIFIED EUROPE, CARAMANLIS NOTED THE NEED TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MEMBERS OF THE EC. HE OBSERVED THAT THE TREATY OF ROME HAD BEEN ANIMATED BY A SPIRIT OF IDEALISM. IN RECENT YEARS, HOWEVER, THIS SPIRIT HAS WANED, AND NOT ENOUGH HAS BEEN DONE ACCORDING TO CARAMANLIS, TO PURSUE THE GOAL OF POLITICAL UNITY. CARAMANLIS STRESSED HIS DESIRE TO SEE GREECE AS AN ACTIVE PARTNER IN A UNIFIED EUROPE AND DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS A MAN OF EUROPE FOR WHICH HE IS BEING CHALLENGED BY HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS.

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3. FRANCHETTI STATED THAT CARAMANLIS COVERED NO NEW GROUND IN TALKING OF THE OUTSTANDING GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTES. THE GREEK PREMIER BEMOANED TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE AND REGRETED THE FACT THAT THE TURKS HAVE BEEN SLOW TO PUT FORWARD NEW PROPOSALS FOR THE RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING BILATERAL DISPUTES, INCLUDING THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. HE DESCRIBED TURKISH BEHAVIOR AS IRRATIONAL AND EXPRESSED HIS DEEP DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE LACK OF MEASURABLE PROGRESS IN GREEK-TURKISH BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. ACCORDING TO FRANCHETTI, CARAMANLIS DESCRIBED IN A RESTRAINED MANNER HIS REACTIONS TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO SUPPORT A LIFTING OF THE ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. HE NOTED THAT THE CONGRESS ADOPTED THE EMBARGO WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF PRESSURING THE TURKS TO MOVE TO SETTLE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. CARAMANLIS STATED THAT PROGRESS HAS NOT OCCURRED, AND THUS HE FINDS IT HARD TO UNDERSTAND THE ADMINISTRATION'S PRESENT POSITION.

5. FRANCHETTI FOUND CARAMANLIS FAR LESS SURE OF HIMSELF THAN HE HAD APPEARED IN EARLIER BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH THE ITALIANS.

SOME OF HIS TOUGHNESS SEEMED TO HAVE DISAPPEARED, AND ON SEVERAL
OCCASIONS HE DISPLAYED SERIOUS PREOCCUPATION AND CONCERN OVER
PRESSURES FROM HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE ABSENCE
OF READILY VISIBLE PROGRESS IN MOVING GREECE TOWARD EC MEMBERSHIP
AND IN RESOLVING THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTES.GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ROME06578
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780154-1104
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780474/aaaackyu.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 316720b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3020085
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARAMANLIS VISIT TO ROME SUMMARY. DURING A BRIEF WORKING VISIT TO ROME, GREEK PREMIER CONSTANTINE CARAMANLIS MADE AN APPEAL BOTH
TAGS: OVIP, GR, TU, IT, US, (CARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE)
To: ATHENS STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/316720b3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014